

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. 1. A system in a computing environment for generating a representation of business policy,  
2 comprising:

3       means for storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules  
4 available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract;

5       means for storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected  
6 rules from the compilation of business rules;

7       means for generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to  
8 generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract; and

9       means for interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links.

2. 2. The system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

3       mean for storing at least one product list filter for generating a list of a specified subset of  
4 products from a master list of products; and

5       means for generating links between the product list filter, the policy set and the master list  
of products.

1       3. The system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the product list filter comprises a plurality of tiers,  
2 each tier generating a list of a different subset of products.

1       4. The system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic elements  
2 which can be altered without modifying the business contract.

1       5. The system as defined in Claim 4, in which the product list filter is a dynamic element.

1       6. The system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the business contract is locked after interlocking  
2 contract elements and the links.

1       7.     A method of generating a representation of business policy, comprising the steps of:

2           a.    storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules

3                   available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract;

4           b.    storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules

5                   from the compilation of business rules;

6           c.    generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to

7                   generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract; and

8           d.    interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links.

1       8.     The method as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

2           e.    storing at least one product list filter for generating a list of a specified subset of

3                   products from a master list of product; and

4           f.    generating links between the product list filter, the policy set and the master list of

5                   products.

1       9.     The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the product list filter comprises a plurality of

2           tiers, each tier generating a list of a different subset of products.

1       10.    The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic

2           elements which can be altered without modifying the business contract.

1       11.    The method as defined in Claim 10, in which the product list filter is a dynamic content

2           element.

1       12.    The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the business contract is locked after interlocking

2           contract elements and the links.

1       13. A system for governing conduct of business activities over a computer network pursuant to  
2 a business contract comprising a predefined set of business rules, comprising:

3           a communications interface for receiving information; and  
4           means for storing the business contract;  
5           means for receiving the information; and  
6           means for referencing the business rules in the business contract to process the information.

1       14. The system as defined in Claim 13, further comprising means for generating at least one  
2 document processed according to the business rules in the business contract.

1       15. The system as defined in Claim 13, wherein the communications interface displays selected  
2 information based on the business rules in the business contract.

1       16. The system as defined in Claim 15, wherein the business contract contains representation  
2 criteria comprising product selection criteria or products exclusion criteria, or both, and the  
3 communications interface displays a filtered products list comprising a subset of products from a  
4 master product list.

1       17. A method of conducting business activities over a computer network pursuant to a business  
2 contract comprising a predefined set of business rules, comprising the steps of:

3           a. storing the business rules;  
4           b. receiving information via a communications interface; and  
5           c. referencing the business rules in the business contract to process the information.

1       18. The method as defined in Claim 17, comprising the further step of:  
2           d. generating at least one document processed according to the business rules in the  
3 business contract.

1       19. The method as defined in Claim 18, wherein the communications interface displays selected  
2 information based on business rules in the business contract.

1       20. The method as defined in Claim 19, further comprising the step of:  
2           e. providing the business contract with representation criteria comprising product  
3           selection criteria or products exclusion criteria, or both, wherein the communications  
4           interface displays a filtered products list comprising a subset of products from a  
5           master product list.